HF Happenings

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2 April, SARL RaDAR Contest
7 April, SARL 80 metre QSO Party
Find the rules in the 2011 SARL Contest Manual

Amateur Radio Today Frequency and Time Change

From Sunday 26 March 2011, the Amateur Radio Today 16 metre band frequency changes to 17 750 kHz. The time of the Monday re-transmission changes to a much earlier timeslot, from 22:00 CAT (20:00 UTC) to 18:30 CAT (16:30 UTC) on a frequency of 3 230 kHz on an omni-directional antenna. Reception reports are invited to artoday@sarl.org.za. For a full list of transmission times and relays visit www.sarl.org.za and select Amateur Radio Today for the left hand menu.

TDMA next development in amateur radio?

Time division multiple access (TDMA) is a channel access method for shared medium networks. It allows several users to share the same frequency channel by dividing the signal into different time slots.

The users transmit in rapid succession, one after the other, each using his own time slot. This allows multiple stations to share the same radio frequency channel.

On Tuesday 15 March, the ARRL filed a Petition for Rulemaking and a Request for Temporary Waiver to authorize the use of single-time-slot Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) emissions in the amateur radio bands at and above 50 MHz, wherever multiple-time-slot TDMA is authorised.

The ARRL - which called its Petition "very narrow in scope" - seeks to facilitate the use of and experimentation by radio amateurs with existing narrowband spectrum-efficient digital voice and data technology." Such technology is now in regular and increasing use in the private

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land mobile radio services, but its use in the Amateur Radio Service is now apparently unintentionally precluded by two specific Commission rules," the ARRL's Petition stated.

Radio amateurs are presently using a Motorola narrowband (12,5 kHz) digital land mobile system - commercially marketed as MotoTRBO and they ask to make it legal.

The use of TDMA digital emissions in certain frequency bands in the Amateur Service is on the increase, the ARRL noted. There are numerous narrowband UHF repeater facilities now operating that use multiple slot TDMA repeaters and single slot TDMA handheld digital transceivers, principally in the 70 cm band. These systems have been installed primarily in the western part of the US and in the New York City area, but also in several Midwestern states.

The South African Radio League (SARL) is currently studying the ARRL initiative in respect of the South African Radio regulations. Comments and input are invited to artoday@sarl.org.za

April 2011
1 – Coastal schools close
2 – RaDAR Contest
7 - SARL 80 m QSO Party
11 – All schools open
15 to 17 - SARL National Convention, Sasolburg
16 - SARL AGM, Sasolburg
16 - Autumn QRP Sprint
16 - Holyland DX Contest; EU Spring SSB Sprint
16 and 17 - YU DX Contest
18 - World Amateur Radio Day
22 – Easter Friday
22/23 - Two Oceans Marathon
23/24 - SP DX RTTY Contest
23/24 April - Helvetia Contest
25 – Family Day
26 – School holiday
27 – Freedom Day
30 April - Marconi Day
30 April/1 May - 10-10 International Spring CW Contest

7 MHz balloon launch postponed

The launch attempt of **Speedball-1**, carrying a 7,102 MHz USB Amateur Radio beacon and scheduled for early Friday 25 March UTC, was postponed due to technical issues.

The Twitter announcement said, "Launch scrubbed, problems with HF GPS lock and sat modem not hearing satellites. Will fix and launch at soonest opportunity.

Speedball-1 is aiming to fly across the Atlantic and will transmit RTTY and DominoEX on 7,102 MHz USB during its flight. The website has a sample track of the path the balloon may take. The map appears to show it could end up landing near Benghazi, Libya.

Speedball-1 http://whitestarballoon.com/ Twitter: http://twitter.com/LVL1WhiteStar/

RTA Goes To Cape Town First

The first Radio Technology in Action programme of 2011 will be held in Cape Town on 7 May on the Bellville Campus of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. Programme details will be available on the web later in the week.

Programming in Windows Course to be Presented in Gauteng on 18 June

The Learning to programme in Windows course will be presented at the National Amateur Radio centre on Saturday 18 June. Booking is now open. Details can be found on www.sarl.org.za and select RTA. The course was successfully presented in Cape Town last weekend. Listen to what delegates had to say on the RTA pages on the SARL web.

SA AMSAT Postpones Space Symposium

SA AMSAT has postponed the Space Symposium originally planned for 2 April to a later date. School holidays in Gauteng and too many other Amateur related activities around the same time seem to be one of the reasons for the low registration rate. A new date will be announced in due course.

Bell Labs journal released

Bell Labs in the USA was responsible for a huge number of technical innovations, including the transistor. Most were documented in the Bell System Technical Journal, published from 1922 until 1983. The entire archive, now owned by Alcatel-Lucent, has now been put online and can be viewed at http://bstj.bell-labs.com.

African DX

Botswana, A2. The Secunda guys are busy again. Lucas, ZS6ACT, Adele, ZR6APT, Sid, ZS6AYC, Gert, ZS6GC, Steffi, ON3AEO, Filip, ON4AEO, Jose, ON4CJK, Kath, ON7BK and others will be active as A25FC from their QTH east of Seika, Botswana (WW Loc KG37xa), on 14 - 18 April 2011. Plans are to be active on 80 - 10 metre SSB, CW, PSK and RTTY. QSL via ON4CJK, direct or via the bureau. Visit the website at www.filipstattooshop.be/botswana/

Uganda, 5X. Sergei, UV5EVJ, is now active as 5X1VJ from Entebbe until 8 June. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW and SSB. During the past week, he has been on 30, 20, 17, 15 and 12 meters. QSL via his home call sign.

Angola, D2. Laci, OM5AM is active as D2AM from Luanda until April 14. QSL to home call.

Liberia, EL. Silvano, I2YSB, and his team with Vinicio, IK2CIO, Angelo, IK2CKR, Marcello, IK2DIA, and Stefano, IK2HKT, are travelling to Africa again from 31 March until 13 April. Their destination will be Liberia this time. They want to work with three stations on CW, SSB and RTTY on 80 – 6 m but their call is not known yet. Their pilot station will be Art, IK7JWY, and IH9GPI takes care of their online log at http://www.i2ysb.com. QSL cards can be sent ONLY direct via I2YSB.

9L   - The 9L5MS team will be active later than planned, "hopefully during the weekend of 2 April" Custom clearance of the container carrying antennas, food, water and generators is not expected before 4 April. For the time being, they will use "a minimal antenna farm" consisting of three fibreglass verticals for 40 – 10 metres. As soon as the other gear arrives, they "will con-centrate on the low bands, using beams and receiving arrays".
        Bookmark www.sierraleone2011.com for updates.

Togo, 5V. DL3MBG, DL5MEV, DL5MGH and DL9MBI will be active as 5V7CC from Togo from mid-April until 28 April. They will operate SSB, CW, RTTY on 160 - 10 metres and EME. QSL via DL9MBI, bureau preferred.

African Islands on the Air

Ascension Island, ZD8. German operators Wolf, DK1IP, Rainer, DL7OR, Gerd, DJ4KW, Arno, DL1CW, and Werner, DJ9KH, will be active as ZD8D from Ascension Island (AF-003) between 24 July and 9 August. Activity will be on 160 - 10 metres, mainly on the Digital modes with some CW and SSB later. They will be using Elecraft K3s. The team plans to participate in the RSGB IOTA Contest (30 and 31 July). A Web page is currently under construction. The team is seeking sponsors, especially for an amplifier.

Reunion Island, FR. Olivier, F4FLF, will be active holiday style as TO2Z from Reunion Island (AF-016) on 9 - 22 April. He plans to operate SSB, PSK and RTTY during his evenings. QSL via home call, direct or bureau.

Special Event

France. Ile de la Passion was discovered 300 years ago on 3 April 1711. Today we know this island with its modern name Clipperton Island. To celebrate this some members of the Clipperton DX Club will activate the special event station TM300CDXC from 28 March until 11 April. QSL via F5IL.

Bulgaria. Some members of the "Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs" (BFRA) are activating the special call sign LZ85R since 1 March. This is to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the first radio club of Bulgaria. All operations will last until 31 December. The QSL manager LZ1BJ prefers to confirm via the bureau.

Czech Republic. The FC Viktoria Plzen was founded in 1911. The actual leader of the "Czech Premier League" is celebrating his 100th birthday with his fans with radio license. The special event station OL1911VP is working until 31 March and during the whole month of June. OL2011VP will be active in April and July and last not least the station OL100VP will be active in May and August. QSLs should be sent via bureau or direct to OK1DRQ.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 28 March to 4 April 2011.

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 April
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 3 April 2011
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
 http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

SOC Hank Kohl Memorial CW Bash
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 2 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: Member: SOC no, name and RST; non-Member: name and RST
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 16 April 2011

E-mail logs to:
RPike78088[at]btinternet[dot]com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
 http://www.qsl.net/soc/k8dd_bash.htm

LZ Open 40 m Sprint Contest
04:00 - 08:00 UTC 2 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - high, low or QRP; Multi-Op - high, low or QRP; Straight Key; Lady Ops
Max power: QRP: 5 W
Exchange: 3-Digit Serial no and 3-Digit Serial no received from last QSO
Work stations: Once each 30 minutes
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 12 April 2011
E-mail logs to: LZ1GL[at]yahoo[dot]com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.lzopen.com/lzocc40/indexF.htm

ARCI Spring QSO Party
12:00 UTC 2 April to 23:59 UTC 3 April
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: All Band; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands
Max operating hours: 24
Exchange: RS, state, province or country and ARCI number or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent
Multipliers: States, once per band; VE Provinces, once per band; Countries, once per band
Power Mult: >5W=x1, 1-5W=x7, 250mW-1W=x10, 55-250mW=15x, <55mW=20x
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult
Submit logs by: 17 April 2011
E-mail logs to: va3jff[at]yahoo[dot]ca

Mail logs to: ARCI Spring QSO Party, c/o Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada
Find rules at:
http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/8347/118/

SP DX Contest
15:00 UTC 2 April to 15:00 UTC 3 April
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band Mixed – QRP, Low or High; Single Op Three Band Mixed; Single Op All Band Phone – Low or High; Single Op All Band CW – Low or High; Single Op Single Band Phone; Single Op Single Band CW; Multi-Op All Band Mixed; SWL Mixed
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: SP: RS(T) and 1-character province; non-SP: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: SP: 3 points per QSO outside of Europe; SP: 1 point per QSO with non-SP Europe; non-SP: 3 points per QSO with SP
Multipliers: SP: Each DXCC country once per band regardless of mode; non-SP: Each SP province once per band regardless of mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 April 2011
E-mail logs to:
spdxc-logs[at]pzk[dot]org[dot]pl
Mail logs to: Polski Zwiazek Krotkofalowcow, SPDX Contest Committee, PO Box 320, 00-950 Warszawa, Poland
Find rules at:
http://www.spdxcontest.info/reg/reg_g.html

EA RTTY Contest
16:00 UTC 2 April to 16:00 UTC 3 April
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op
Exchange: EA: RST and province; non-EA: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band

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QSO Points: 1 point per QSO on 20, 15 or 10 m with same continent; 2 points per QSO on 20, 15 or 10 m with different continent; 3 points per QSO on 40 or 80 m with same continent; 6 points per QSO on 40 or 80 m with different continent

Multipliers: Each EADX100 entity once per band; Each EA province once per band; Each USA, VE, JA or VK call area once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23 April 2011

E-mail logs to: rttycontest[at]ure[dot]es

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.ure.es/contest/430-ea-rtty-contest.html

QCWA Spring QSO Party

18:00 UTC 2 April to 18:00 UTC 3 April

Mode: CW/Digital, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and VHF/UHF

Classes: CW/Digital Only; Phone Only; Mixed

Exchange: last 2 digits of year first licensed and state, province, country or QCWA chapter

Work stations: Once per band regardless of mode

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mult points

Submit logs by: 3 May 2011

E-mail logs to: w2od[at]aol[dot]com

Mail logs to: W2OD, Robert Buus, 8 Donner Street, Holmdel N.J. 07733-2004, USA

Find rules at:

http://www.qcwa.org/qso-party.pdf

Missouri QSO Party: 1800Z 2 April to 0500Z 3 April and 1800Z-23:59 UTC 3 April

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

Classes: Missouri; Missouri Rover; Non-Missouri; DX

Exchange: MO: RS(T), Serial no and county; non-MO W/VE: RS(T), serial no, state, province or territory; DX: RS(T), serial no and "DX"

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW QSO

Bonus: 100 points for at least one QSO with special event station

Multipliers: MO: Each MO county, state, province and territory once; MO: Maximum of one DXCC country once; Non-MO: Each MO county once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus

Submit logs by: 3 May 2011

E-mail logs to: moqsoparty[at]w0ma[dot]org

Mail logs to: Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society W0MA, 7488 Cornell Ave, University City, MO 63130, USA

Find rules at:

http://www.w0ma.org/mo_qso_party.htm

RSGB RoPoCo SSB

19:00 – 20:30 UTC 3 April

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: RST and previous postcode received

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with UK station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 19 April 2011

Upload log at:

http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl

Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England
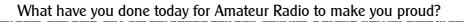
Find rules at:

http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2011/rropoco.shtml

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW

19:00 – 20:30 UTC 4 April

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 11 April 2011
Upload log at:

http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2011/r80mcc.shtml

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 5 April
SARL 80 m QSO Party, 17:00 – 20:00 UTC 7 April
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 8 April
Montana QSO Party, 00:00 UTC 9 April to 24:00 UTC 10 April
PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavours Contest, 12:00 – 18:00 local 9 April
New Mexico QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 9 April to 02:00 UTC 10 April
Georgia QSO Party 18:00 UTC 9 April to 03:59 UTC 10 April and 14:00 - 23:59 UTC 10 April
SKCC Weekend Sprint, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 10 April
UBA Spring SSB Contest, 06:00 - 10:00 UTC 10 April

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 28 March 2011.

1858 - Pencil with attached eraser patented by Hyman L Lipman of Philadelphia
1880 - The first electric streetlights installed by a municipality - Wabash, Indiana, USA
1889 - The Eiffel Tower opened for the Paris Exposition
1910 - First seaplane takes off with Henri Fabre behind the controls near Marseilles, France
1910 - First military wireless message sent in Australia at Helensburgh, Sydney.
1921 - Formation of the Australian Air Force, 'Royal' added 31 August 1921
1950 - Phototransistor invention announced, Murray Hill NJ
1995 - US Coast Guard last Morse message, ending over 100 years use.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

What have you done today for Amateur Radio to make you proud?